MONTANA OFFICE BRIEFING
PREPARED
FOR

JIM SCHERER

MARCH 20, 1987

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MONTANA AT A GLANCE

0131697

GOVERNOR: Ted Schwinden (D), serving second term expiring December 1988

SENATORS: John Melcher (D), second term expires December 1988
Max Baucus (D), second term expires December 1990

REPRESENTATIVES:
Pat Williams (D), District 1, fifth term expiring December 1988
Ron Marlenee (R), District 2, sixth term expiring December 1988

STATE LEGISLATURE:
Senate - 25 Republicans - 25 Democrats (Democratic Leadership)
House - 51 Republicans - 49 Democrats (Republican Leadership)

Sessions: Meets for 90 days on odd-numbered years.

Budget: Montana Constitution requires a balanced budget. Declining coal tax revenues requiring severe budget cuts.

PROGRAMS DELEGATED:

Air
Water
Public Water Systems
Groundwater
NESHAPS
Construction Grants
Hazardous Waste
Pesticides Enforcement and Certification

PROGRAMS NOT DELEGATED:

Pretreatment
UIC
404

STATE'S ECONOMIC PICTURE:

Population: State 786,690 (1980 Census)
Area 145,392 square miles

Economy: Montana contains many natural resources. Its 93 million acres contain water, timber, coal, gold, silver, range and cropland. Its initial settlements resulted from mining and ranching activities. Other mainstays are tourism/recreation, oil and gas.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES:

The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences administers the majority of the environmental programs. The key individuals are:

DIRECTOR: John Drynan, M.D.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Bill Opitz
ADMINISTRATOR: DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: Don Willems
CHIEF, AIR QUALITY BUREAU: Hal Robbins
CHIEF, WATER QUALITY BUREAU: Steve Pilcher
CHIEF, SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU: Duane Robertson
CHIEF, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH: Larry Lloyd. This Bureau has responsibility for radiation issues.

MONTANA AT A GLANCE (Con't)

The Montana Department of Agriculture has responsibility for administering the pesticide programs, certification and enforcement. The key individuals are:

DIRECTOR: Keith Kelly
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION: Gary Gingery

The EPA Montana Office interacts with the Montana Department of Highways and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks on wetland protection and restoration issues. The Director, Montana Department of Highways is Gary Wicks, and the Director, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is Jim Flynn.

The EPA Montana Office also interacts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Montana Department of State Lands regarding mine reclamation activities at Superfund Program sites such as Silver Bow Creek. The Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is Larry Fasbender, and the Commissioner of State Lands is Dennis Hemmer.

The EPA Montana Office meets regularly with the Office of the Governor. In addition to meeting Brace Hayden and Howard Johnson of the Governor's staff, the EPA Montana Office also meets with the Governor, as needed.

The MDHES activities are overseen by the State of Montana Board of Health. This Board is a rulemaking body and also hears appeals of MDHES actions brought by the regulated community. Board decisions are appealable to State of Montana courts.

The State legislature also maintains an organization to address environmental issues. The Environmental Quality Council, composed of House and Senate members of both parties and a small permanent staff, serves as an information resource for the legislature. The EPA Montana Office interacts with the permanent staff of this organization on a periodic basis, and the legislators as requested. The Executive Director is Deborah Schmidt.

GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL POSTURE:

The State of Montana has been eager to assume responsibility to administer Federal environmental programs. Managers and staff are usually cooperative and implement good environmental programs. The State has expressed concerns with EPA interference in implementation of environmental programs. These concerns most often arise over the need and/or type of enforcement action appropriate to correct violations of environmental laws.

MONTANA AT A GLANCE (Con't)

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Most national environmental organizations are represented in Montana. The two most significant groups, however, are uniquely Montana organizations. They are the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) and the Clark Fork River Coalition. The EPA Montana Office has regular contacts with both of these organizations. Industrial and business organizations are also located in Montana. The petroleum, wood products, and mining associations have significant influence.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

AIR: PM10 implementation may have a significant impact because of the wood smoke use in western Montana communities.

HAZARDOUS WASTES: The mining and smelting activities have resulted in contamination of large areas. Several very complex sites along the upper Clark Fork River drainage in western Montana are extremely resource intensive EPA/State efforts. Post closure RCRA activities at wood preservative (tie treatment) and oil refining sites is an important concern to EPA and the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau.

WATER: Nutrient loading of Flathead Lake, nonpoint source contamination of surface waters, waste water discharges from industrial facilities and municipalities along the Clark Fork and its tributaries and compliance with the monitoring and filtering (treatment) requirements imposed by the 1986 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

MONTANA OFFICE BACKGROUND

In the spring of 1978, Alan Merson, Regional Administrator, EPA Region VIII decided to establish EPA offices in the six states. Because of the immediate favorable response from the State of Montana, it was selected as the first state in Region VIII to have an EPA office. Responsibility to implement EPA programs or oversee State of Montana implementation of these EPA programs was delegated to the Montana Office. These EPA programs were efforts mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In August 1978, the EPA Montana Office became operational. In March 1979, all of the people selected to staff the Office had arrived. As initially organized, 16 people were assigned to the Montana Office. Ted Schwinden, at that time Lieutenant Governor and presently Governor of the State of Montana, has been a strong supporter of the EPA Montana Office since its inception.

The presence of the Montana Office in the State of Montana does not in any way detract from the State's responsibilities to implement environmental programs delegated to it by EPA. In addition to EPA programs responsibilities, establishment of the Montana Office had several overall goals:

1. Expedite delegation of EPA programs to the State of Montana through daily interaction between EPA and State staff.

2. Foster cooperative working relationships between EPA and State staff.

3. Provide on-site opportunities for the general public, public interest groups, regulated community and county/local governments in Montana to meet frequently with EPA.

4. Provide on-site opportunities for the Montana Congressional Delegation to meet frequently with EPA.

5. Provide improved understanding of State of Montana environmental program objectives and needs to EPA Region VIII.

6. Improve EPA responsiveness to State and local government environmental program needs.

7. Improve multi-media coordination and cooperation at both EPA and State.

8. Provide an opportunity for EPA staff to gain "field experience".

As of March 1987, the Montana Office has 22 people. It is also seeking to fill five positions which will bring its assigned strength to a total of 27 individuals. In addition to its original environmental programs, the Montana Office has also assumed responsibilities for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste program and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) program. John Wardell is the Director; he assumed his duties in October 1983.

MISSION

To implement, or oversee implementation by the State of Montana, EPA's programs within the State of Montana.

I. Implement

A. Hazardous Wastes
1. CERCLA (Superfund)
2. RCRA (Portion not presently delegated to the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences [MDHES])
3. Wetland Protection

B. Water Programs
1. Pretreatment
2. Underground Injection Control (UIC)

C. Air
1. Asbestos

D. Toxic Substances
1. PCBs
2. Asbestos-in-Schools Program

E. Other
1. EPA programs on six Indian reservations
2. Participation in the United States/Canada International Joint Commission (IJC) reference concerning Cabin Creek coal mine
3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance activities (e.g., EIS review)

II. Oversight

A. Hazardous Wastes
1. RCRA (State authorization portion)
2. CERCLA
   a. Milltown Cooperative Agreement
   b. Silver Bow Creek Cooperative Agreement
   c. 3012 Program
   d. Management support to EPA - lead efforts

B. Water Programs
1. Construction Grants
2. Clean water
3. Dirty water
4. Groundwater protection
5. NPDES
6. Special efforts, e.g., Clark Fork study

C. Air Programs
1. State Implementation Plans (SIPs)
2. Compliance with the Clean Air Act

D. Pesticides
1. Certification, training, enforcement

HIGHEST PRIORITY OBJECTIVES
(EXECUTIVE TRACKING SYSTEM OBJECTIVE)

I. Program Goals

A. Implement Industrial Waste Pretreatment Programs

To prevent flow of pollutants into publicly operated sewage treatment facilities, EPA and the State are implementing pretreatment programs. Discharges into these treatment systems must comply with program requirements established by the municipalities. EPA and the State approve the programs. Within Montana, these six communities will be required to plan/implement pretreatment activities:

Butte
Bozeman
Helena
Billings
Missoula
Great Falls

B. Complete Construction of the Anaconda Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

As a result of potential unacceptable groundwater contamination, the design of the Anaconda STP was significantly revised. Construction, therefore, is being carefully reviewed by the State Water Quality Bureau and EPA to insure that funding problems do not halt work.

C. Complete the Initial Phase of the Lower Clark Fork River Study and the Champion International Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Several major facilities will require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issuance decisions during 1986. The State Water Quality Bureau has initiated an in-depth sampling effort to determine the "environmental" condition of the Clark Fork. Results of this sampling will be used to understand contamination problems in the river and establish NPDES discharge limits at these major facilities.

D. Complete State Air Implementation Plans (SIP)

The Montana Air Quality Bureau is working towards meeting required air quality standards in non-attainment areas. Three important efforts were chosen to assess progress:

Butte Total Suspended Particulate (TSP)
Billings Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)
Great Falls Carbon Monoxide (CO)

E. Issue Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permits

The State of Montana was delegated the RCRA program in July 1984. EPA and the State share responsibility to implement the permitting program

for hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities. These two permits were chosen to assess progress:

Exxon
Conoco

F. Implement RCRA Facility Management Plans (FMPs)

The November 1985 RCRA amendments required preparation of FMPs at certain types of hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities. FMPs will be prepared and implemented at the following Montana facilities:

Exxon
Conoco Refinery and Landfarm (2)
Burlington Northern (BN) Somers
BN Paradise
Cenex
Transbas
Montana Refining

G. Complete Scheduled Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Superfund Remedial Action Activities

The below-listed sites will receive funding to complete specific actions. Because of the high priority within EPA, and the level of public interest in seeing EPA achieve schedule requirements, this effort must be intensively managed.

Anaconda Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
Silver Bow Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
Milltown Feasibility Study/Remedial Design
East Helena
Libby Groundwater
Burlington Northern Somers
Others which receive FY 1987/88 funding

H. Complete "Asbestos in Schools" Activities

EPA will inspect school districts to determine if children are potentially being exposed to friable asbestos. If friable asbestos is observed during an inspection, the school district must notify the parents.

I. Continue Progress Toward Nutrient Removal in Flathead Basin Municipal Discharges

The State Water Quality Bureau is initiating efforts to reduce phosphorus inflow into Flathead Lake. The WQB is requiring tertiary treatment to remove phosphorus. County governments may limit the sales of phosphorus-containing detergents. Flathead Lake is a major contributor to the tourist trade in northwestern Montana. Elevated phosphorus levels in Flathead Lake cause algae blooms, making the lake much less attractive as a tourist attraction.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
AS OF MARCH 18, 1987

MONTANA OFFICE

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, 4 INDIVIDUALS

John Wardell, Director, GM-14
Deb Clevenger, Administrative Officer, GS-9
Ann Doan, Grants Specialist, GS-11
Lisa Wenger, Student Aid, GS-2

HAZARDOUS WASTES & TOXICS BRANCH, 14 INDIVIDUALS

Eric Finke	Chief, GM-13
Carol Tenney	Secretary, GS-5
Kathy Chiotti	Superfund (CERCLA) Contracts Management, GS-6
Mike Bishop	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Anaconda Smelter, GS-12
Jim Knoy	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Milltown Reservoir, GS-12
Russ Forba	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Silver Bow Creek, GS-12
Scott Brown (as of 4/12)	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Libby Ground Water and Burlington Northern (Somers), GS-12
VACANCY	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Silver Bow Creek, GS-11/12
VACANCY	Superfund Remedial Project Manager East Helena Site, GS-11/12
VACANCY	Clark Fork River Superfund Sites Coordinator, GM-13
VACANCY	Superfund Remedial Project Manager Montana Pole and Silver Bow Creek, GS-9/11/12
Tom Harris	Asbestos and PCB Activities Commissioned Officer (05) Public Health Service (PHS)
Jim Harris	Hazardous Waste (RCRA) Program Implementation, GS-12

WATER, PESTICIDES, AIR AND INDIAN PROGRAMS BRANCH, 9 INDIVIDUALS

Dick Montgomery	Chief, GM-13
Fran Ashworth	Secretary, GS-5
Jim Boyter	Water Programs (Construction Grants and UIC), GS-12
Dean Chaussee	Water (UIC) and Pesticides Programs Commissioned Officer (06), PHS
Bill Engle	Water Programs (UIC and Drinking Water) Commissioned Officer (05), PHS
Bob Fox	Water Programs (Discharge Permits), GS-12
Steve Potts	Water Programs (Water Quality and Wetlands), GS-12
Lee Shanklin	Water Programs and EIS Review, GS-12
Jay Sinnott	Air Programs, GS-12

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUMES

John F. Wardell, Director

Eric Finke, Chief, Hazardous Wastes and Toxics Branch

Richard Montgomery, Chief, Water, Air, Pesticides and Indian Programs Branch

John F. Wardell

Director, EPA Region VIII Montana Office
Age: 41
Married: Sandra J. Wardell, Biology teacher, Helena High School
Children: Christopher P. 6 years old

Education:
Ph.D., Forest Pathology, Michigan State University
M.S., Forest Pathology, Michigan State University
B.S., Forestry, Michigan State University
M.B.A., Colorado State University

Employment:

1. October 1983 to present, Director, EPA Region VIII Montana Office.
2. January 1981 to October 1983, Regional Superfund Coordinator and Chief, Superfund Programs, Region VIII.
3. April 1980 to January 1981, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Program, EPA Region VIII, responsible for implementation and delegation of RCRA program in states of South Dakota and Wyoming.
4. September 1979 to April 1980, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Denver, Colorado, Environmental Review Officer, responsible for reviewing proposed housing development to insure compliance with state/Federal environmental requirements.
5. October 1977 to September 1979, Department of Army Civilian, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Denver, Colorado, responsible for planning to initiate clean up of contamination at RMA.
6. December 1971 to October 1977, Commissioned Officer U. S. Army.
   A. September 1975 to October 1977, Assistant Operations Officer, General Staff, 1st Armored Division, Ansbach, West Germany.
   B. December 1981 to September 1985, Director Biological Agent Demilitarization and Deputy Director, Chemical Agents (e.g., nerve gas) Demilitarization, Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Other: U. S. Army Reserves, 159 Support Group, Helena, Montana, S-1, essentially personnel officer for 1,800 member organization for 2 and 1/2 years, presently in Logistics Section, Major.

Hobbies: Mountain Climbing, Skiing

Eric Finke

Chief, Hazardous Wastes and Toxics Branch
Age: 36
Married: Judy Finke
Children: Bethany, 7
Heidi, 5
Daniel, 1

Education: B.S. in Engineering, Arizona State University

Employment:

1. March 1987 to present, Chief, Hazardous Wastes and Toxics Branch, EPA Region VIII Montana Office.
2. May 1984 to March 1987, Superfund Program Remedial Project Manager, EPA Region VIII Montana Office.
3. November 1982 to May 1984, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Program, assisted State of North Dakota accept delegation of the RCRA program from EPA, Bismarck, North Dakota.
4. October 1980 to November 1982, RCRA Program, worked with regulated community in areas of hazardous wastes incineration and treatment and oversight of operation of Lowry Landfill RCRA facility, Denver, Colorado.
5. May 1980 to October 1980, engineering consulting firm, Trinidad, Colorado.
6. July 1976 to October 1980, Hacksmith and Wheelwright, studied blacksmithing and wheelwrighting and owned and operated firm involved with repair/construction of wheels and axles for horse-drawn wagons, (Sante Fe, New Mexico and Cokedale, Colorado).
7. July 1971 to July 1976, air quality related activities at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Richard T. Montgomery (Dick)

Chief, Water, Air, Pesticides and Indian Programs Branch
Age: 51 - Born, Denver, Colorado, February 3, 1936
Married: Twenty-eight years - Rose Ann, Personnel Officer, Helena Independent Record (daily newspaper)
Children: Vince - 25 years - single, Civil Engineer
P.E.G. Engineers - Minneapolis, MN.
Paul - 23 years - single, Senior in Civil Engineering
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT.
Other Family: Dog - Clancy - Irish Setter - 15 years - single
Chief guardian and true owner of residence at
2326 Hauser Blvd., Helena, MT.

Education: High School - Columbia Falls, Montana - 1954
College - B.S. Civil Engineering - San Jose State, CA - 1959
M.S. Environmental (civil) Engineering
Montana State University - 1970

Employment: Federal Service: 28 years
National Park Service - Trail laborer and Civil Engineer - 7 yrs.
U. S. Air Force - Navigator, C-97 Stratotanker - 4 and 1/2 yrs.
Environmental Protection Agency - 16 and 1/2 yrs.
State Engineer - Montana - 11 and 1/2 yrs.
Chief, Water, Air, Pesticides and Indian Programs - 5 yrs.

Other: Consulting Professional Civil Engineer - Billings, MT. - 1 and 1/2 yrs.
Interests: Hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, lapidary

MONTANA OFFICE ISSUES

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Clark Fork River Drainage Effort

LOCATION: Western Montana and Eastern Idaho

SUMMARY: The Clark Fork River drainage is located in west central Montana and east central Idaho. For the purpose of this effort it consists of the Silver Bow Creek Clark Fork River, and several tributaries that empty into the Clark Fork River.

Silver Bow Creek flows approximately 25 miles in a westerly direction from Butte, Montana to Anaconda, Montana where it joins with Warm Springs Creek to form the Clark Fork River. The Clark Fork River flows westerly from Anaconda, Montana approximately 300 miles to Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho. The largest tributaries of the Clark Fork River are the Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Flathead Rivers.

Mining has been the primary industry for the past 100 years within the upper Clark Fork River watershed. This watershed includes Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork River between Anaconda and Missoula, Montana. This stretch of the Clark Fork drainage is approximately 150 miles in length. Widespread contamination has occurred as a result of these mining and related activities (e.g., smelting).

There are four National Priorities List (NPL) sites located in the upper Clark Fork drainage. These are the Silver Bow Creek, Montana Pole, Anaconda Smelter, and Milltown Reservoir sites.

In addition to heavy metal contamination from past mining activities, there are also significant water quality concerns with nutrient loading from point and nonpoint sources. Point sources include industrial and municipal sources. The State of Idaho is particularly concerned with the potential for gradual decline in the Lake Pend Oreille water quality from nutrient loading of the Clark Fork River as it flows through western Montana.

DESCRIPTION: The Silver Bow Creek site extends for approximately 150 miles from Butte to Milltown, Montana (near Missoula). The site includes the cities of Walkerville, Centerville, and Butte (estimated population of 38,000) and the 100 year flood plains of Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork River. Mining and smelting activities have caused the release of heavy metals into the environment. The State of Montana is conducting a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) under a Cooperative Agreement.

The Montana Pole site is located just outside Butte adjacent to Silver Bow Creek. The Montana Pole Treating Company operated for approximately 30 years using pentachlorophenol (PCP) mixed with diesel fuel to treat timbers used in mining operations.

EPA has spent approximately $2.5 million under the Removal Program to prevent PCP contamination of Silver Bow Creek, and clean up PCP-contaminated soils. EPA will initiate a RI/FS at this site under the Remedial Program.

The Anaconda Minerals Company (AMC) operated a smelter at Anaconda, Montana for approximately 100 years. Operations ceased in 1980. These activities contaminated the surrounding area. AMC is conducting a RI/FS at this site. Mill Creek, a small community adjacent to the smelter, has received most of the emphasis because it appears to be the most highly contaminated community. EPA expects to undertake, or oversee AMC undertake corrective actions at Mill Creek within 90-120 days.

The Montana Power Company constructed a dam across the Clark Fork River at Milltown, Montana in 1907. Since that time, heavy metals from upstream mining activities have been accumulating in the reservoir behind that dam (Milltown Reservoir NPL site). The State of Montana is conducting a RI/FS under a Cooperative Agreement. In 1983, 33 families received a new water supply system because their original system had become contaminated with arsenic.

CURRENT STATUS: The Clark Fork River drainage effort is a multi-media effort requiring close coordination between Region VIII's Superfund Program and Water Management Division. It also requires close coordination between Regions VIII and X and State of Idaho and State of Montana.

There have been several significant steps taken to insure that investigations and corrective actions are completed within the Clark Fork River drainage.

March 1984 - The EPA Montana Office, EPA Idaho Office, State of Montana and State of Idaho established a working group to coordinate efforts.

1984 to Present - The EPA Montana Office and State of Montana have conducted investigations and/or undertaken corrective actions under the Superfund Program.

May 1984 - The Governor of the State of Montana established a position within his office to develop a comprehensive and coordinated State/Federal effort. Anaconda Minerals Company provided $200,000 to fund this position.

May 1985 - The Governor of the State of Montana, Ted Schwinden, wrote to Lee Thomas requesting approximately $1 million to address water quality issues. EPA responded indicating its support, but pleaded that it did not have funds to support Schwinden's request.

Spring-Summer 1985 - EPA Region VIII conducted water quality bioassays to support State of Montana to develop discharge permit conditions.

July-December 1986 - The EPA Region VIII Montana Office proposed the Clark Fork Superfund Sites Management Plan to provide a process to coordinate and expedite Superfund Program efforts at the four NPL sites. G. Lucero and H. Longest were briefed about this process in December. The Montana Office received three additional positions to include a Coordinator position to implement the process.

January 1987 - The Idaho and Montana Congressional Delegation succeeded in attaching an amendment to the 1987 Clean Water Act directing EPA to assess water quality concerns. Money was not appropriated for this effort.

January 1987 - EPA Region VIII provides draft Statement of Principles to AMC and the State of Montana. The objective of the Statement is to provide framework to address Superfund Program corrective actions in a cooperative and expeditious manner. The initial negotiating session is scheduled for the end of March.

February 1987 - The Associate Director of the EPA Laboratory, Duluth, Minnesota visited Montana and Idaho to discuss efforts to investigate nutrient loading during the summer of 1987. ORD would provide $100-300 thousand to support the investigation.

Spring-Summer 1987 - EPA Region VIII will conduct water quality bioassay investigations.

POINT-OF-CONTACT: John F. Wardell, Director
EPA Region VIII Montana Office, (FTS) 585-5432

Environmental Protection Agency
Montana Office
Federal Building, Drawer 10096
301 South Park
Helena, Montana 59626-0096

DATE: February 1987

0131713

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site

LOCATION: Anaconda, Deer Lodge County, Montana

SUMMARY: The Anaconda Minerals Company (AMC) smelter facility closed as an operational facility in September 1980. General knowledge of a history of pollution problems associated with heavy metals' releases led to listing of the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. EPA activities at the site include on-going inspection of smelter demolition activities, response to citizen complaints of hazardous substance releases due to demolition activities, oversight of AMC's remedial investigation/feasibility studies and a temporary relocation of families with young children from Mill Creek, Montana.

DESCRIPTION: The Anaconda Smelter site is located in southwestern Montana, at the southern end of the Deer Lodge Valley, approximately 25 miles northwest of Butte, Montana, and about 1/2 mile east of Anaconda, Montana.

The ore processing facilities at the site were developed to remove copper from ore taken from mines in Butte for the period from 1884 to 1980. The processes produced wastes that have elevated concentrations of metals such as lead, copper, cadmium and arsenic. Anaconda Minerals Company has estimated that the wastes include about 185 million cubic yards of concentrated tailings, about 27 million cubic yards of furnace slags, and about 250,000 cubic yards of flue dust.

Due to the size of the processing facilities, the long period of operation, the volume of wastes produced, and mechanical dispersion of wastes, the site encompasses more than 6,000 acres.

The copper ore was processed at the Old Works, Arbiter Plant and Smelter Hill. Wastes were typically deposited in pond systems where solids were allowed to settle before the wastewater was released into nearby watercourses. When the ponds were filled with solids, they were abandoned, leaving mounds of tailings as much as 80 feet high and over 3,000 acres in areal extent. Each system contains vastly different waste characteristics, depending on the type of ore processing taking place when the ponds were being used.

ANACONDA SMELTER (Con't)

Ground water resources have been adversely affected by the arsenic and heavy metals laden wastes in close proximity to the smelter. Exceedences of drinking water standards for arsenic have been experienced in wells used for domestic purposes in Mill Creek this spring and summer. Fugitive emissions of uncontrolled, highly contaminated flue dust, have been documented. The AMC is now under order to control fugitive emissions of flue dust from the site. Remedial investigation conducted by AMC dealing with specific waste locations (Arbiter Plant, Old Works, Beryllium Disposal Areas, Flue Dust Disposal Areas, Mill Creek, and tailings ponds) and dealing with various media around the site (surface waters, ground waters, and top soil) are proceeding under the authority of an EPA Administrative Order issued to AMC in 1984. Many of the Stage I remedial investigations have been completed and indicate the need for further, more intensive Stage II investigation.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. In early 1986 EPA successfully negotiated another Consent Order with the Anaconda Minerals Company to control fugitive dust emission and to control access to areas where flue dust is stored. Flue dust is the most highly contaminated material remaining on Smelter Hill. AMC has completed spraying the flue dust piles with a wax base surfactant. We are awaiting their plan for dust suppression during flue dust movement/consolidation. EPA has installed two high vol air monitors on Smelter Hill to document the success or failure of the fugitive flue dust control measures.

A removal action in Mill Creek has been completed involving the temporary relocation of 13 families with children under six years of age (or families with special circumstances). Oiling of roads, where contaminated dust is present, has been completed in Mill Creek.

EPA successfully negotiated an Order with the Anaconda Minerals Company on July 1, 1986 to have them conduct an RI/FS for Mill Creek, Montana. This operable unit of the Anaconda Smelter Superfund site continues to be the highest priority operable unit on the Anaconda Smelter site because of the documented arsenic exposure to young children and the extreme levels of contamination in the community. Other operable units on the site proceed as time allows.

ANACONDA SMELTER (Con't)

The Draft Mill Creek RI/FS was submitted to EPA on October 2, 1986. The AMC document was deficient in areas addressed by the CERCLA 106 Order (particularly in the assessment of human health risks). EPA determined that the Order had been violated and entered in to dispute resolution procedures with AMC. AMC was granted a two week extension to address EPA comments on the draft RI/FS. Following a December 10, 1986 Headquarters briefing, the RI/FS was released for public comment. Public comments are due by February 4.

An active community relations program continues. Extensive news coverage has occurred including involvement by all state news services, CBS News - Seattle, New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times. To date, the news articles have generally accepted the approach that EPA is taking. The biggest concerns we hear from the local residents are that all the attention in the news is depreciating property values and they would like to get the Superfund clean up activities taken care of as soon as possible. A fashionable neighborhood has been very concerned about the fencing and "Contaminated Area" signs that have been recently placed adjacent to their homes.

CONTACTS:

Branch Chief,	Phone No.: FTS 585-5414
Program contact, Mike Bishop	Phone No.: FTS 585-5414

Environmental Protection Agency
Montana Office
Federal Building, Drawer 10096
301 South Park
Helena, Montana 59626-0096

DATE: February 1987

0131716

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

LOCATION: Milltown, Missoula County, Montana

SUMMARY: Mine waste sediments have accumulated behind the Milltown Reservoir hydroelectric dam causing ground water contamination of arsenic and heavy metals and surface water quality problems. A replacement water system for the residents of Milltown was installed as a remedial action while the RI/FS process continues to study the extent of contamination.

DESCRIPTION: In 1981, routine samples taken from drinking water wells located in the community of Milltown, Montana, showed elevated levels of arsenic that exceeded the EPA Interim Primary Drinking Water Standard for arsenic. Four wells, serving a total of 33 residences, were contaminated with up to ten times the Drinking Water Standard of 50.0 ug/l As. Residents were advised to not utilize this water for drinking and cooking and to seek alternate supplies of potable water. Milltown is located on the Clark Fork River, downstream of Silver Bow Creek.

In the fall of 1983 the site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Montana DHES entered into a Cooperative Agreement with EPA to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

Throughout this process, affected residents continued to obtain potable water from noncontaminated sources. In the summer of 1983, volunteers using National Guard equipment began supplying residences with door-to-door potable water service on a biweekly basis.

In December 1983 the feasibility study for the Milltown water supply was completed. This study recommended a replacement ground water source of potable water and distribution system. The remedial investigation of the Milltown sediments was completed July 1984.

Replacement of the water supply and appurtenances was completed in 1985. Additional RI/FS monies were awarded to MDHES in August of 1985 to complete the reservoir RI/FS.

MILLTOWN RESERVOIR SEDIMENTS (Con't)

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. The reservoir sediment source control Feasibility Study is behind schedule and the State's contractor is being contacted to take actions to expedite their activities. Montana Power Company (MPC) is rebuilding the Milltown Dam Spillway. Potential responsible parties have been notified. Additional field data has been gathered.

CONTACTS:	Branch Chief,	Phone No.: FTS 585-5414
	Program contact, Jim Knoy	Phone No.: FTS 585-5414

Environmental Protection Agency
Montana Office
Federal Building, Drawer 10096
301 South Park
Helena, Montana 59626-0096

DATE: February 1987

0131718

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Montana Pole Treatment Superfund Site

LOCATION: Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana

SUMMARY: The Montana Pole site is an abandoned pentachlorophenol (PCP) and creosote wood treatment facility. Past waste disposal practices have caused contamination of soils, ground water and surface water. An immediate removal has been on-going since the summer of 1985.

DESCRIPTION: Montana Pole operated on a 40-acre site in Butte in Silver Bow County, Montana from 1947 to 1983. The plant preserved utility poles, posts and bridge timbers with PCP and creosote. Soils and ground water on the site are highly contaminated with PCP and other highly toxic compounds including dioxin. Monitoring wells both on and off the site also contain PCP. These hazardous substances from the pole-treating operation were discharged in the past to a ditch that is adjacent to the plant and ran towards Silver Bow Creek. PCP has been detected in the creek.

An immediate removal action began in 1985 to halt seepage of PCP, diesel oil and contaminated ground water into Silver Bow Creek. As a result of these activities, seepage has been minimized.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. Immediate removal activities are continuing. A responsible party search is underway. The site has been placed on the proposed Superfund priority list June 1986. Remedial program activities are not anticipated to begin in FY 1987.

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Date: February 1987

0131719

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Silver Bow Creek Superfund Site

LOCATION: Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana

SUMMARY: Silver Bow Creek originates on the East Ridge of Butte and extends 24 miles to the confluence of Warm Springs Creek forming the headwaters of the Clark Fork River.

Silver Bow Creek was historically utilized as a waste transport conduit for mining, other industrial, and municipal wastes for over 100 years. As a result, the Creek became the worst water quality problem in the State of Montana and a threat to public health.

The site was promulgated on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (MDHES) entered into a Cooperative Agreement with EPA to conduct a comprehensive Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in 1985. The scope of work for the RI/FS was extended approximately 15 miles downstream from the confluence of the Clark Fork River and Silver Bow Creek to the Grant Kohrs Bridge. A community advisory committee has been formed to assist the State in their planning effort. RI/FS sampling and analysis efforts began in February 1985 and are continuing on an operable unit basis. The Butte area which is a major source of contamination to Silver Bow Creek, and the Clark Fork River has been added to the Silver Bow Creek NPL site.

Currently contamination has been documented in Silver Bow Creek and in the Clark Fork River for approximately 120 miles from Butte to Milltown Reservoir NPL site.

DESCRIPTION: Treatment ponds were constructed, beginning in the early 1900's at Warm Springs (24 miles downstream from Butte) that treated Anaconda Minerals Company wastewater discharges, city sewage discharges, Stauffer Chemical Company discharges, and suspended sediments contributed by the stream. This treatment consists of a series of settling ponds and periodic introduction of lime to increase precipitation of heavy metals. This was further enhanced by the improvements of wastewater treatment at Anaconda Minerals Butte concentrator during the early 1970's. Treatment of heavy metals from the Creek still continues by Anaconda Minerals Company at the Warm Springs Ponds. The quality of this

SILVER BOW CREEK (Con't)

discharge is controlled by water quality based effluent limits established by a MPDES discharge permit issued by MDHES. This treatment system is typically by-passed during periods of high flow such as spring runoff. Major fish kills in the Clark Fork River usually coincides with these events. The Creek continues to receive metal inputs from groundwater recharge, resuspension of deposited sediments and surface runoff related to precipitation events. The defunct Montana Pole Plant contributes creosote and pentachloraphenol (PCP) via ground water discharges. This site was proposed as a new NPL site in June 1986. Other sources may be identified as part of the Superfund process. Over the decades, heavy metals from the Butte and Anaconda area have been swept approximately 100 miles downstream to the Milltown Reservoir near Missoula, Montana. Levels of metal contamination in this reservoir were sufficient to cause it to be listed as a separate Superfund site in 1983.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. In a November 15, 1985 memo to John Welles, Winston Porter determined that the upper Silver Bow Creek drainage, including the Butte area, would be included as part of the Silver Bow Creek NPL site listing. That decision was published in the Preamble to the Federal Register in June 1986.

In September 1986 EPA hired an RPM for the Butte portion of the Silver Bow Creek site. Forward planning and site inspection (SI) activities are underway to prepare for development of soils screening and RI/FS workplans. Anaconda Minerals Co. (AMC) was noticed as a PRP on January 6, 1986 and additional PRP notification are currently being considered. On September 25, 1986 AMC voluntarily submitted a draft RI workplan. On preliminary examination, this workplan appears to have a number of deficiencies and the overall adequacy of this workplan will be assessed in light of EPA's forward planning and site investigation activities. When those activities are complete EPA will begin negotiations with the PRP's on a possible CERCLA 106 Order for RI/FS activities.

The removal team is assessing the potential for acute health impacts resulting from the presence of elemental mercury at a public ball field and adjacent areas in the Walkerville portion of the Silver Bow Creek site. Soil sampling started in November of last year and should be completed this winter. Both vapor and dust sampling for mercury analysis were conducted in Walkerville homes in mid-January 1987 to assess potential levels of mercury exposure.

SILVER BOW CREEK (Con't)

The State signed a contract in January 1986 with CH2M Hill, Stiller and Associates, Schafer and Associates and MSU to conduct the FS on the original Silver Bow Creek site. FS work has been underway at minimal level pending reauthorization. The site has been divided into FS units (generally somewhat longer scope than operable units) to facilitate management. Additional RI data collection will be needed in many areas due to the 1) size of the original site; 2) atypical drought condition during the first phase of the RI; 3) development of RI/FS guidance subsequent to the RI start at the site and 4) to conform with new requirements resulting from reauthorization. The State is currently developing screening study plans as part of forward planning activities to address the contamination in the Clark Fork River floodplain between Warm Springs and the Milltown Reservoir site. Public interest in the Superfund program is especially high in the Butte area as a result of concerns regarding public health and economic stability.

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DATE: February 1987

0131722

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Burlington Northern Somers Tie Treating Plant Superfund Site

LOCATION: Somers, Flathead County, Montana

SUMMARY: Soil, groundwater and surface water contamination has resulted from uncontrolled disposal of tie treating wastes. Potential impacts include surface water (Flathead Lake and wetland areas), groundwater (private wells), and Somers drinking water system which draws its supply from Flathead Lake. Contaminants include polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and some heavy metals.

DESCRIPTION: Burlington Northern Railroad has treated ties on a 4.5-acre site in Somers, Montana, since around 1900.

An old disposal lagoon was used to dispose of creosote wastes from the wood-treatment process. The wastes overflowed from the lagoon via a ditch to a marshy area on the shore of the Flathead Lake. This lagoon, ditch, and marshy area have not been used for waste disposal since 1971 when BN installed two waste lagoons. These lagoons are currently RCRA regulated. In 1981, BN installed a waste creosote recycling system, and ceased further waste disposal. BN ceased tie treating operations at Somers in July 1986, and has notified the State RCRA program of its intention to close the RCRA ponds.

About 400 people live within one mile of the site. Flathead Lake is the largest fresh water lake west of the Mississippi River. It is extensively used for camping and fishing, and towns along the lake such as Somers, use it for drinking water.

On February 28, 1984, the State dug several shallow holes along the lake shore and took samples of creosote-saturated sand below the ditch outfall.

Early in March 1984, consultants from Burlington Northern drilled approximately 60 test borings in the vicinity of the pond, the waste ditch, and below the seasonal high water beach of Flathead Lake. About 46 percent of the test holes showed visual evidence of creosote contamination.

In October 1984 the BN site was proposed as a Superfund site. The EPA and BN signed a RI/FS Consent Agreement on October 9, 1985. In May 1985, BN and EPA also signed a 106 Consent Order

BN SOMERS TIE TREATING PLANT (Con't)

for an immediate removal of creosote contaminated sludges and soils from the 0.5 acre marsh pond on the shoreline of Flathead Lake. By mid-June 1985, the removal was completed.

BN is currently performing the RI/FS activities called for in the Consent Order. They are expected to be complete in second quarter FY87.

Public interest in the site has been high, but generally cooperative and patient. Public sentiment ranges from "happy to see something being done" to distrust of EPA, BN and the Superfund process. EPA has held three public meetings at Somers since March 1985, and publishes a quarterly update of site activities.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987: BN is currently conducting RI/FS activities under the 106 Order. A draft FS is expected during second quarter FY 87. A public review and comment period on the FS is tentatively planned for Spring of 1987.

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DATE: February 1987

0131724

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: East Helena Superfund Site

LOCATION: East Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana

SUMMARY: A large area around the East Helena smelter site has been contaminated. High levels of arsenic have been found in area ground water. Soil sampling has also revealed elevated levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium, and zinc. In addition, silver, mercury, selenium, thalium, copper, and manganese were found to be well above background levels. These metals have been deposited in this area through nearly 100 years of operations at an ASARCO primary metals smelter. The metals pose a potential risk to the 2500 plus residents of this area and the environment.

DESCRIPTION: The ASARCO primary lead and zinc smelter in East Helena, Montana has emitted particulates containing heavy metals into the air during its nearly 100 years of operation. Recent data obtained by EPA indicate that a large area around the smelter contains elevated levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium, zinc, silver, mercury, thalium, and manganese in the upper soil horizon.

The State of Montana and the Centers for Disease Control conducted a lead blood screening study of East Helena children during July-August 1983. Though findings suggested that an acute health hazard did not exist at that time, differences in lead blood levels were observed between "control" children and those exposed to lead contamination from the smelter. These latter children exhibited higher lead blood levels.

EPA has collected, and is currently compiling and analyzing, extensive data on soils, crops, and livestock. ASARCO is conducting water quality studies. EPA and ASARCO entered into an agreement through an Administrative Order on August 31, 1984 to conduct these RI investigations under this Order. All studies have gone through the draft review stage and final RI reports are under preparation. ASARCO's first water quality report did not adequately define the extent of pollution (arsenic in ground water). Additional ground water monitoring wells will be required. ASARCO will also produce an environmental assessment (EA) and has hired a consultant to do this work. EPA is overseeing all of ASARCO's studies, study results, and is independently conducting the soils, crop and livestock work. The EA is to be completed by ASARCO in 1988. EPA reserves the right to write its own EA if ASARCO's proves unacceptable. ASARCO is currently in compliance with the terms of their Order.

EAST HELENA (Con't)

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. Ground water sampling results reveal six shallow and one deep (50 feet) monitoring wells above drinking water standards for As. Additional wells are now being developed to define the As plume. Surface water values are not above standards. Cow blood lead levels have shown to be above hazard criteria in five area herds. Extensive areas of soils around the smelter have metals levels which are phyto-toxic to plants. ASARCO has been offered the opportunity to complete the FS. A decision is expected by April 1987.

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DATE: February 1987

0131726

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Idaho Pole Superfund Site

LOCATION: Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana

SUMMARY: The Idaho Pole Company site is a pole treating facility where past disposal activities have resulted in soil, ground water and surface water contamination with pentachlorophenol (PCP) and possibly dioxin.

DESCRIPTION: Idaho Pole Company treats wood products with pentachlorophenol (PCP) on a 10-acre site in Bozeman, Montana, and has been in operation since 1946. Ground water is very shallow and flows to the north/northwest, where it discharges into Rocky Creek. About 1,250 people within 3 miles of the site use ground water as a source of drinking water.

A concern is that wastewater discharged from the facility to surface water impoundments could rapidly infiltrate the shallow ground water. In fact, five residences have documented Penta-contaminated drinking water. The facility has a history of surface water problems associated with its discharges.

The State investigated the site in 1978 and found large quantities of PCP in a tributary to Rocky Creek. While minute quantities were noted at the mouth of the ditch and running into Rocky Creek, large quantities had collected on the rocks and vegetation along and in the ditch. Stains high on the sides of the ditch and on vegetation indicated that discharge had been much greater in the past. Following the investigation, the State issued a Compliance Order requiring Idaho Pole to take measures to eliminate discharges into Rocky Creek and to prevent the future placement of wastes in locations where they were likely to pollute State waters. Idaho Pole eventually constructed an interceptor trench running the length of the property boundary to halt the movement of PCP into ground water. In August 1983, EPA and the State collected samples at the old Bozeman Landfill, including the trench running the length of the Idaho Pole property. The results showed that a considerable amount of PCP was migrating from the Idaho Pole plant.

Idaho Pole has installed and analyzed samples from approximately 15 ground water monitoring wells at the site under order of the State Water Quality Bureau (WQB). Idaho Pole has submitted reports of the data collected and was developing alternatives for remediation. The company has stopped their alternatives

IDAHO POLE COMPANY (Con't)

analysis to await EPA's involvement through CERCLA. Idaho Pole has recently submitted an application for a NPDES permit for the Penta-contaminated water that currently is being discharged to the stream. The site was placed on the Final NPL during June 1986.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. Remedial program activities are not scheduled to begin in FY 1987. The Technical Assistance Team (TAT) sampled drinking water in six residences and a surface water discharge to a tributary to Rocky Creek. There are problems with the QA of the data. Most of the data is unusable. The EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) conducted soil gas analyses in December. A meeting is scheduled in February to discuss the results to date.

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DATE: February 1987

0131728

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Libby Groundwater Superfund Site

LOCATION: Libby, Lincoln County, Montana

SUMMARY: Soil and groundwater contamination on-site, and groundwater contamination off-site have resulted primarily from uncontrolled disposal and spillage of wood treating fluids from the Champion International facility in Libby, Montana. Primary contaminants are pentachlorophenol, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and some volatiles and heavy metals (primarily arsenic and lead). Off-site impacts consist of contamination of down gradient private wells within the town of Libby.

DESCRIPTION: In August 1981, samples from eight private wells were analyzed for pentachlorophenol (PCP) and the polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) components of creosote by the State Department of Agriculture Lab in Bozeman, Montana. Three wells showed detectable levels of these contaminants and two of these wells approached or exceeded proposed ambient water quality criteria for PCP levels. All of the wells tested as part of the investigation were primarily used for lawn and garden irrigation and not a principle source of drinking water.

In April 1982, EPA and MDHES personnel presented the results of the above sampling effort to St. Regis (now owned by Champion International). The Libby ground water site was included on the National Contingency Plan list of Montana hazardous waste sites on December 30, 1982.

In September 1983 this site was listed as an NPL site. In October 1983, St. Regis and EPA signed a CERCLA 106 Consent Order to continue the RI/FS at the site.

In early 1985 Champion International purchased the St. Regis Corporation and has taken over all of St. Regis' former operations, including the plant in Libby and St. Regis Corporation's former obligations relative to the 106 Order.

Public interest in the site is generally low. Homeowners are primarily concerned with the possible loss of use of their wells and subsequent dependence on the Libby water system, rather than human health impact.

LIBBY GROUNDWATER (Con't)

Extensive remedial investigations have taken place. Phase III and IV RI reports have been submitted, and Champion has recently prepared an FS report for a first operable unit remedy (alternate water supply). RI/FS activities are continuing for aquifer restoration and on-site soil contamination remedies.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. A public meeting on the first operable unit FS was held on July 15, 1986, and the ROD was signed on September 26, 1986. An alternate water supply supplemented by local institutional controls was selected as the first operable unit remedy. An FS for aquifer restoration and on-site soil contamination is anticipated in mid-February 1987.

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DATE: February 1987

0131730

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Mouat Industries Superfund Site

LOCATION: Columbus, Stillwater County, Montana

SUMMARY: The Mouat Industries site contains residues of chrome ore processing wastes. The waste is affecting surface soil, ground water and surface water.

DESCRIPTION: In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the site was leased to Mouat Industries for the processing of chromium ore to high-grade sodium dichromate. The process produced wastes containing sodium chromate and sodium dichromate. In 1973, the Anaconda Minerals Company removed the waste pile and treated the area to remove hexavalent chromium remaining in the soil. In early 1975, gravel was imported and placed on the site to a depth of 6 inches to 3 feet. By late 1976, yellow mineral deposits containing chromium were evident on top of the ground. The site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in May 1986. Chromium is present in soils on site, as well as in ground water and surface water both on- and off-site. EPA has also detected elevated concentrations of arsenic in surface water sediment downstream of the site. Ownership history of the site has been investigated.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. The site has recently been inspected by the Technical Assistance Team for possible removal action. Remedial program activities are not scheduled to begin in FY 1987. The site is now on the Final Superfund National Priorities List.

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DATE: February 1987

0131731

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Proposed Cabin Creek Coal Mine

LOCATION: Southeastern British Columbia

SUMMARY: Flathead Lake, Glacier National Park, the wild and scenic Flathead rivers and a great expanse of mountains, forests and highly productive agricultural valleys are located in the Flathead Basin area in Montana. The Flathead Basin is also the site of accelerating timber harvest, oil and gas exploration, and possibly coal mine development on the Canadian side of the North Fork Flathead River.

The North Fork drains southward out of Canada, forms the western boundary of Glacier Park, and finally after meeting the Middle and South Forks, empties into Flathead Lake. These rivers are all classed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and are important fisheries and recreational resources.

A Canadian firm, Sage Creek Coal, proposed to construct and operate a very large open pit coal mine five miles north of the International Boundary on one of the North Fork's major tributaries. Sage Creek Coal filed its Stage II application on this project in 1982. Stage II is an "approval in principle" to undertake the proposal.

Over 100 pages of comments were sent to the British Columbia government under Governor Schwinden's signature. EPA Region VIII's concerns were incorporated into the review prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior. EPA and the State were, and remain, concerned with water quality, visibility, wildlife endangerment, and reclamation issues.

The British Columbia government approved the Stage II application in the Spring of 1984. Sage Creek Coal has five years from this approval date to gain Stage III approval, receipt of the individual operating permits. If these permits are not received within that time frame, the entire process essentially starts over. Present economic conditions are such that Sage Creek Coal has not actively pursued these permits.

DESCRIPTION: In February 1985, the International Joint Commission (IJC) agreed to accept a reference from the United States and Canadian governments.

CABIN CREEK COAL MINE (Con't)

The IJC Study Board initiated work in July 1985 by holding public hearings in Kalispell, Montana and Fernie, British Columbia. Four committees were established, each co-chaired by an American and Canadian. The four committees are the Mine Development Committee, Biological Resources Committee, Water Quality and Quantity Committee, and Water Uses Committee. John Wardell, Director, EPA Region VIII Montana Office, is co-chairman of the Water Uses Committee.

Each committee is preparing reports assessing the current situation. These reports are scheduled to be completed May-September 1986. The Mine Development Committee is assessing the types and amounts of contaminants that would be discharged to surface and ground waters from construction, operation, and reclamation of the mine. The Biological Resources Committee is evaluating the existing surface water biota in Flathead River/Flathead Lake. The Water Quality and Quantity Committee is assessing the existing water quality; and the Water Uses Committee is inventorying the socio-economic activities of the Flathead River Basin. The Water Uses Committee has also evaluated the impacts of the proposed mine on the socio-economic activities of the Flathead River Basin.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. Each committee is completing its report. These reports and the overall report of the Flathead River International Study Board (FRISB) will be presented to the International Joint Commission (IJC) in the May-June 1987 time frame. During the summer of 1987, the IJC will announce the findings and recommendations of the FRISB at public hearing in Kalispell, Montana and Fernie, British Columbia.

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DATE: February 1987

0131733

EPA REGION VIII FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Registration of Strychnine for use in Skunk Control

LOCATION: Montana (Statewide)

SUMMARY: In 1972, EPA cancelled the use of the pesticide strychnine for controlling skunks. For the next 11 years, Montana continued its use under an EPA emergency exemption (Section 18) because of their public health concern about the spread of rabies. In 1985, EPA refused to issue the exemption until progress was made toward full registration of strychnine. Montana, working closely with Wyoming pesticide officials, have begun the process toward registration, and consequently, have again received a Section 18. A national hearing to reconsider registration for strychnine, was held in Washington, D.C. on October 7, 1986. A field hearing will be held in Billings, Montana on March 30, 1987. A decision to allow/not allow the registration process to continue, will be issued by the Administrative Law Judge about July 1987.

DESCRIPTION: On March 18, 1972, EPA published in the Federal Register an Order cancelling and suspending the registration of products for predator control which contained strychnine. The Order was based on strychnine's potential adverse effects on nontarget species, including endangered species, and on the lack of reliable evidence on the benefits of predator control. The report justifying this cancellation order contained very little information on the use of strychnine to control skunks and suppress the incidence and spread of rabies.

In 1973, and then for an additional 11 years, Montana was granted EPA "emergency" exemptions (Section 18's) and, consequently, was able to continue to use the chemical. In 1985, since no progress had been made by the State or the pesticide manufacturer toward full registration of strychnine for this use, EPA refused to again issue an "emergency" exemption.

The Montana Department of Livestock, working closely with Wyoming officials and EPA representatives, laid out a plan for achieving registration, and gathered together new evidence, considered to be substantial enough to allow a hearing for reconsideration of the prior cancellation order for strychnine. In November 1985, an exemption was again issued to Montana to allow use of the chemical, based on the demonstrated rabies public health emergency. On November 7, 1986, this exemption was continued for an additional year.

In the meantime, on October 7, 1986, a formal hearing was held in Washington, D.C. to determine if there was sufficient new evidence to allow the registration process to continue, with the eventual possible reversal of the 1972 cancellation order. Since it was economically difficult for some Montanans to appear for the hearings, a request for a field hearing was made.

STATUS AS OF: February 20, 1987. The field hearing request was granted by the Administrative Law Judge and is now scheduled for March 30, 1987 in Billings, Montana. The Montana Department of Livestock is lining up witnesses to testify.

A decision to reconsider the 1972 cancellation of registration of strychnine for controlling rabid skunks is expected from the Administrative Law Judge by July 1987.

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